Secrt. II-27—100,000—21-5-52.

Food (1949) Department.

Ms SERIES.

G.O. No.	395 395
Dated	3-5-1949 3-5-1949

[Despatch Abstract.]

Food situation - Madras Province - Report for the fortnight ending 31-3-49 Review - Papers Recorded.

By Air Mail. Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies)

From
N.S.Mani Esquire, I.C.S.,
Secretary to the Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Chepauk, Madras.

To
The Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Food, New Delhi. (5 copies)

Board's L.dis No.D.47022, dated 12.4.1949.

Sir,

Sub: Food Situation - Province of Madras - Report for the Fortnight ending 31-3-1949 - Forwarded.

-.-

I am directed to forward herewith five copies of the report on the food situation in the Province of Madras for the fortnight ending 31-3-1949.

Sd.....
Secretary.
12-4-49.

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Copy to Secretary to Government, Food Department, Fort St. George, Madras.(3 copies)

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REPORT on the Food Situation in the Province of Madras. during the second fortnight of March 1949.

1. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP PROSPECTS:

There was practically no rainfall during the fortnight under review.

Transplantation of paddy was proceeding in parts of the districts of West Godavari, Kurnool and Coimbatore. Water supply was inadequate for irrigation in the districts of Anantapur, Cuddapah, Chingleput, Chittoor, North Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore, Tiruchirapalli and Ramnad and in parts of the districts of Kurnool, Bellary, Nellore, South Arcot and Mathurai.

The condition of standing crops was poor in the districts of Chingleput, North Arcot and Coimbatore and generally fiar in the other districts. Paddy crop in parts of South Arcot and Ramnad was affected by pests. Standing crops to a major extent in all taluks of Chingleput district and in parts of the districts of Chittoor, North Arcot, Ramnad and Tirunelveli were withering for want of adequate rain or water supply.

Harvest of paddy was proceeding in the district of East Godavari, Nellore, South Arcot, North Arcot, Salem, Mathurai, Ramnad, and Tirunelveli and in parts of the districts of Anantapur, Tiruchirapalli and Tanjore; of cholam in Coimbatore and parts of Bellary; of cumbu in Coimbatore and Ramnad; and of ragi in Nellore, North Arcot and Ramnad. The outturn of paddy was poor to fair or fairto normal while the outturn of millets was poor to fair.

II.EXTENT TO WHICH RATIONING HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN:

(i) Nature of Existing Government Commitments: At the beginning of the fortnight under review, statutory rati ing was in force in 57 municipal areas, one panchayat area and in Madras City and its suburban areas.

Cont.

There was also rationing on a non-statutory basis in the rural areas of all deficit districts. As regards the surplus districts, distribution of foodgrains was made through relief shops in the upland taluks of Guntur and Nellore districts; in all other areas, distribution of foodgrains was made through retail agencies.

(ii) Towns/Areas brought under Rationing during the Fortnight: Statutory rationing was introduced with effect from 27th March 1949, in the municipal areas of Ambur, Guidyatham, Tirupathur, Tiruvannamalai, Vaniyambadi, Vellore and Wallajahpet in North Arcot district. Pre-rationing enquiries are in progress in the municipal areas of Dharapuram, Erode, Mettupalayam, Pollachi and Udumalpet in Coimbatore district and rationing will be introduced in them with effect from 17th April 1949. The introduction of regular rationing (statutory and rural) will then be completed in all the deficit districts in this Province. The question of introduction of rationing in the six surplus districts in the Province is still under consideration and a decision will be taken in the matter as early as possible.

(iii) Population involved separately for Towns and Rural Areas:

Areas.	Adults	Children.	Total number in terms of adults.
Areas under rural rationing	2,41,40,512	70,85,301*	2,76,83,163
Statutorily rationed areas.	44,88 246	12,09,413	50,92,952
Areas covered by relief shops	5,54,155	2,42,130	6,75,220

(Population figures as at the end of March 1949)
*Figures of children in certain districts have not been reported separately. They have been included in the total population under adults)

III REVIEW OF PROGRESS OF PROCUREMENT, BASIC PLAN, MOVEMENT , ETC.,

(i) Progress of Procurement: The following is the progress of procurement during and upto the fortnight ending 15-3-1949.

Food grained.	Target for Kharif year 1948-49 i.e. from 1-11-1948 to 31-10-49 TONS	Quantity Procured during the fortnight ending 15-3-49(Tons)	Quantity procured from 1-11-1948 to 15-3-1949 (Tons)	Percentage of procurement to target
Rice	15,81,100	1,09,661	6,99,523	44
Millets	1,68,850	3,280	14,364	8

Compared with the quantities procured during the fortnight ending 28-2-1949, i.e. 1,14,304 tons of rice and 2,884 tons of millets, the procurement during the fortnight ending 15-3-49 shows a fall of 4,643 tons in rice and an increase of 396 tons in millets. The fall in the procurement of rice was due to the fact that the harvest of the main crop in most districts was in the concluding stage.

Cont.

(ii) Basic Plan Movements : (a) Rice: During April 1949, the Government of India propose to supply 6,000 tons of Overseas rice at Madras Port. Details regarding the names of steamers, dates of arrival, etc. area awaited.

The following quantities were received in the forthnight:

Orissa	...	1,730, tons
Coorg	...	515 tons
Overseas	...	6,434 tons.
	Total.	8,679 tons.

(b) Millets and Maize: 6516 tons of overseas maize being the quota for March 1949 were received at Madras Port during the fotnight ex- s.s. 'Cape Carso'

There were no other receipts of millets.

The Government of India have allotted 6,000 tons of overseas maize to this Province for April 1949. The Madras Government have requested the Regional Food Commissioner to move the Government of India, to allocate one or two milo shipments to this Province for April 1949.

(c) Wheat and Wheat Products: 10500 tons of wheat have been received during the fortnight under review as detailed below:

(i) 2000 tons ex-ss 'Cape Monora' arrived at Madras Port on 18-3-1949
(ii)1000 tons ex.ss.'Nicholas K' arrived at Madras Port on 22-3-1949;
(iii) 500 tons ex.ss.' Villinus' arrived at Vizagapatam Port on 29-3-1949.
(iv)2500 tons ex.ss.'Vladivostok' arrived at Madras Port on 26.3.1949
(v)2500 tons ex.ss.'Lochy Bank' arrived at Madras Port on 29.3.1949;
(vi)2000 tons ex.ss.'Indian City' arrived at Madras Port on 31-3-1949;

The allotment of 1500 tons ex.ss.'Nicholas'K' has been reduced to 1000 tons as 500 tons have been arranged at Vizagapatam Port for easy delivery to Vizagapatam ex. ss.' 'Villinus' that arrived at Vizagapatam Port on 22.3.49. Further in view of the congestion and lack of accommodation in the harbour, the allotment of 2500 tons ex.ss.'Empire Chairman' to this Province has been cancelled and allotted to Mysore. The Regional Food Commissioner has since intimated that the entire quantity of 2500 tons ex.ss.'Vergnor' expected shortly is allotted to Madras.

(d) Gram:

A quantity of 1960 tons of bengalgram its products was intransit during the fortnight under review, from the East Punjab States Union to Madras. Upto-to the end of the fortnight 1,600 tons of bengalgram flour, 2,460 tons of dhall and 3,920 tons of whole gram have been procured and moved against the basic plan allotment of 15,000 tons of bengalgram and its products to Madras from the East Punjab States Union. The balance quota will move very shortly.

Cont.

A quantity of 725 tons of begalgram whole was despatche from Hidumalkote in Bikaner State to Madras during the fortni The balance quota of 965 tons is also expected to move shortl

The Regional Food Commissioner, Madras, has since intimated that the price for the gram allotted from the Vindhya Pradesh Union has been finally fixed at Rs. 13/- per maund F.O.R. The Assistant Marketing Officer, Nagpur, has been instructed to procure and move tis quota expeditious

(iii) Ration (Scales and compostion) and Offtake:-

(a) Statutory Rationing: There was no change in the scale and composition of the ration during the fortnight under review.

The offtake of foodgrains during the four weekly month of March 1949, was as follows. (The offtake) figures do not include the offtake in the municipal areas of ramnad, Vizagapatam and North Arcot districts as rationin was introduced in them in the middle and end of the month)

Rice ..	28,127	tons.
Wheat and Wheat Products.	2,799	tons.
Other grains. ..	995	tons.
Total.	31,921	tons.

(b) Rural Rationing: There was no change in the scale and composition of the ration during the fortnight under review. The offtake of foodgrains from the rural ration shops during March 1949 (four weeks only) was as follows:

Rice ..	53,214	tons.
Wheat & Wheat products	2,267	tons.
Other grains.	8,998	tons.
	64,479	tons.

(c) Distribution through Relief Shops in Unrationed Areas:

Relief shops were functioning during the fortnight under review in the upland taluks of Guntur and Nellore districts and in the municipal areas of North arco and Coimbatore districts excluding the municipal towns of Coimbatore and Tiruppur where statutory rationing was already in force. The relief shops functioning in the municipal areas of North Arcot district were converted into ration shops on the 27th March, 1949, when statutory rationing was introduced in those areas. All the relief shops in the municipal towns of Coimbatore district will also be converted into ration shops on the introduction of statutory rationing on 17th April 1949.

There was no change in the scale and composition of the relief quota in the unrationed areas.

The offtake through relief shops functio in Nellore and Guntur districts during March, 1949 (four weeks only) was as follows:-

Cont.

Rice	664 tons.
Wheat and Wheat products	32 tons.
Other grains.	115 tons.
	*811 tons.

* The offtake through the relief shops in North Arcot and Coimbatore has been included in the offtake from the Rural ration shops.

As already indicated in the report for the previous fortnight, the offtake of 'other grains' (Millets and maize) was particularly low during the month and this was due to non-availability of adequate stocks in the ration shops in certain districts like Coimbatore and Salem where the stock position was unsatisfactory and also due to the local harvests of millets and availability of wages in kind for the labourers who are mostly millet and mixed diet eaters. It has also been brought to notice that the low offtake in certain districts like Bellary and Kurnool was due to the issue of unfamiliar milo.

(iv) Food Control Organisation: Nothing special to report.

IV. REVIEW OF SUPPLIES , MOVEMENTS AND PRICES:

(i) Stock and Supply:(a) Rice: The total provincial stock increased from 4,41,266 tons on 12.3.1949 to 4,75,028 tons on 26-3-49. The stock position was satisfactory in all the distr except the Nilgiris. Necessary steps have been taken to replenish stocks there.

(b) Millets and Maize: The stocks of maize and 'other grains' on the 26th March were 1270 tons and 24,170 tor respectively with about 5,840 tons of overseas maize in transit to the quota districts.

(c) Wheat and Wheat products: The stock of wheat and wheat products on 26-3-1949 was 8888 tons and 2193 tons respectively. Including the stocks of 8731 tons of wheat in transit, the total stock will be 17 619 tons.

(ii) Movements and Transport: The fortnight has been mainly notable for the number of ships received either without previous warning or at very short notice in the Madras Harbou Between 17-3-1949 and 31-3-1949 no less then nine ships were ceived there resulting in clearance difficulties. It would be greatly facilitate matters both as regards this department and the commercial community if the arrival of foodgrains ships could be more suitably staggered and if more ample intelligence of the impending arrival could be given. Movements from the East Coast ports of Kakinada and Masulipatnam which were necessitated by the shortage of supplies of railwa waggons in the Northern Circars continued during the fortnigh Movements of rice from Orissa continued to be slow and movement of rice from Coorg were considerably below the agreed figure due to the failure of the Coorg mills to supply the stiupulated quantities.

cont.

The trade complains that since the introduction of the new scheme for the movement of pulses under which sponsoring is no longer allowed and merchants have to register their demands at the despatching stations when the tra-port department will make special arrangements to meet them, practically no pulses have moved to South India.

(iii) Prices: The statement below shows the Provinci average retail prices of rice (second sort) cholam(jowar) and cumbu(bajra) during the second fortnight of March 1949. The retail prices of these foodgrains fluctuated within narrow limits during the fortnight.

(Prices are in terms of rupees per imperial maund)

Food grains.	Prices on 26.3.1949.	Prices a fortnight ago	Prices a month ago.	Prices a year ago.
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
Rice (II sort)	15.75	15.81	15.71	15.52
Cholam(Jowar)	9.92	9.99	9.96	10.60
Cumbu(Bajra)	11.17	10.49	10.68	11.14

V. MISCELLANEOUS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF REVISED FOOD POLICY

Nothing Special to report.

Sd/ Superintendent.
12-4-49.

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NOTE FOR CIRCULATION

Food (d)

Sub: Food Situation - Madras Province - Report for the second fortnight of March. 1949.
Ref: From the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) L.Dis.E 47022., dated 12-4-49

The report on the food situation in the Province for the fortnight ending 31-3-1949 may be perused on page 3-8 c.

Rainfall:- There was practically no rainfall during th pet- fortnight.

Cultivation:- Transplantation of paddy was proceeding parts of the districts of West Godavari, Kurnool and Coimbatore. Water supply was inadequate for irrigation in the districts of Anantapur, Cuddapah, Chingleput, Chittoor, Nort Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore, Tiruchirapalli and Ramnad and in parts of the districts of Kurnool, Bellary, Nellore, South Arcot and Mathurai.

Standing crops:- The condition of standing crops was poor in the districts of Chingleput, North Arcot and Coimbatore and generally fair in the other districts. Paddy crop in parts of South Arcot and Ramnad was affected by pests. Standing crops to a major extent in all taluks of Chingleput district and in parts of the districts of Chittoor, North Arcot, Ramnad and Tirunelveli were withering for want of adquate rain or water supply.

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Harvest:- Harvest of paddy was proceeding in the districts of East Godavari, Nellore, South Arcot, North Arcot, Salem Mathurai, Ramnad and Tirunelveli and in parts of the districts of Anantapur, Tiruchirapalli, and Tanjore; of cholam in Coimbatore and parts of Bellary; of cumbu in Coimbatore and Ramnad; and of ragi in Nellore, North Arcot and Ramnad. The outturn of paddy was poor to fair or fair to normal whille the outturn of millets was poor to fair.

Stock and supply position:- The stock position of food grains in the Province on 2-4-49 was as follows when compared with that on 26-3-1949.

- Foodgrain.	Stock on 26-3-49.	Stock on 2-4-4
Rice	4,75,028 tons.	4,98,794 tons
Wheat.	8,886 "	11,298 "
Maida.	2,193 "	2,355 "
Semolina	3,213 "	3,502 "
Maize.	1,270 "	2,480 "
other grains.	24170 "	25,040 "
Total.	5,14,762 tons.	5,43,449 tons

Rice :- The stock position was at satisfactory in all the districts except the Nilgiris. Following quantities were received in the fortnight:-

From	Orissa ...	1,730 tons.
	Coorg. ...	515 tons.
	Overseas. ...	6,434 tons.
	Total. ...	8,679 tons.

Millets and Maize:- 6,518 tons of overseas maize being the quota for March, 1949 were received at Madras Port during the fortnight ex.S.S.'Cape Carso'

There were no other receipts of millets.

The Government of India have allotted 6,000 tons of overseas maize to this province for April, 1949. The Madras Government have requested the Regional Food Commissioner to move the Government of India to allocate one or two milo shipments to this Province for April, 1949.

Wheat and Wheat products:- 10,500 tons of wheat have been received during the fortnight. The Regional Food Commissioner has also since intimated that the entire quantity of 2,500 tons ex. S.S.' Vergnor' expected shortly is allotted to Madras.

Progress of procurement:- Compared with the quantities procured during the fortnight ending 28-2-1949, i.e., 1,14,304 tons of rice and 2,884 tons of millets, the procurement during the fortnight ending 15-3-49 shows a fall of 4,643 tons in rice and an increase of 396 tons in millets. The fall in the procurment of rice was due to the fact that the harvest of the main crop in most districts was in the concluding stage.

Prices: - The statments of prices of food grains at 'S' on page 8 c.f. and also page 11-16 c.f. may be perused.

The case may be circulated to Hon'ble Minister (Food) Hon'ble Minister (public Works) and His Excellency the Governor for perusal.

Sd.....
21-4.49.

The case may now be sent to Public Works (Information and Publicity Department) for perusal and return.

Sd.....
26-4-49.

The case may be perused and returned to the Food Department

Sd.....
28-4-49.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

Abstract.

Food situation - Madras Province - Report for the fortnight ending 31-3-49 Review - Papers - Recorded.

- -

Food Department

G.O.Ms.No. 395 Dated 3-5-49

ORDER:

The papers may now be recorded.

Sd.....
Secretary to Government.
29-4-49.

/True copy/

Superintendent,
Madras Record Office.

NHq11.

14/7.